(b) He imtextil Asia Fair, Tokyo, Japan.

(2) To organise a Buyer-Seller-Meet at New Delhi.

(3) To invite expert/technical delegation from abroad.

(4) To undertake export publicity in the leading foreign Newspapers/magazines.

(5) To promote the annual All India Carpet Trade Fair.

Take over of New Sick Textile Mills in Bihar

1717. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take over some new sick textile mills in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Takeover by the Government or nationalisation of sick mills does not provide solution to the problem of sickness and the Government would not as a rule, intervene in such cases.

Skirmishes on Indo-Pak Border

1718. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of DEFANCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of skirmishes which took place on Indo-Pak border during the last three months;

(b) the extent of loss of life and property;

(c) whether the Government have lodged any protest in this regard with Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) While there have been no "skirmishes" along the Indo-Pak border during the last three months, intermittent exchange of fire along the line of Control is a recurring phenomenon. There were 331 firing incidents along the Line of Control and 10 incidents of firing between the Pak Rangers and the BSF in the Amritsar Sector of the International Border during this period.

(b) There has been no loss of property nor any civilian casualties during the exchange of fire. The Indian troops have suffered some casualties. It will not be desirable to disclose the details.

(c) to (e): The Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan, through Weekly telephonic contacts, have made efforts to de-escalate the situation along the Line of Control. Firing incidents along the International Border are taken up in Flag Meetings between the BSF and their Pak counterparts.

Bank Deposits and Investments in Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

1719. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: